



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol

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This photo taken on Friday, May 7, 2007, from the top of the Jefferson Building dome shows the exterior features of the Capitol Visitor Center. Masons have installed most of the plaza deck pavers and wall stone. Crews are now grading the terrain that slopes down from First Street (bottom of photo) to the CVC entrances (center of photo) to prepare it for sod and plantings and installation of irrigation systems. Installation of paving stones on the two central stepped walkways is also nearly complete. These walkways are lined with 34 Tulip Poplar trees that will revive the tree-lined views of the Capitol established in the original Frederick Law Olmsted landscape plan of 1874. Two elevator towers (center of photo) are covered with plastic tarps to keep the weather out while crews install the elevator cab components. All six historic lanterns are in place and two large bronze historic fountains also will be ready for operation later this summer. Most of the stone on the palettes near the East Front center steps (top left of photo) are awaiting installation inside the East Front of the Capitol (see photo on next page).

This Week – Ongoing Work – 5/14/07 through 5/18/07

- Masons continue setting wall stone in several areas within the East Front of the Capitol (see photo next page).
- Workers have completed drywall installation in the East Front transition zone to clear the way for installation of the remaining plaster in this zone. Once completed later this week, the scaffolding will be removed clearing the way for floor stone installation below in an elevator lobby area.
- Masons continue work in the House and Senate stairwell atria. Work is essentially complete on all three landings in the Senate atrium and mason teams are now working in the House atrium. Meanwhile, welders continue securing the steel components that will support the bronze handrails that line each staircase.
- Millwork is nearing completion on both levels of the Congressional Auditorium and wood floor installation is ongoing.
- In the Exhibition Hall, a paint crew continues working on the faux marble painting process on some of the decorative plaster elements in both the Virtual House and Senate Theaters. Painting is expected to be completed in both theaters by early next week. A floor crew has resumed installation of the glass floor panels down the center of the Hall.
- Elevator technicians are now installing the cab components for the two elevators on the East Front Plaza.



A mason installs a decorative piece of sandstone near the ceiling of the third floor (Gallery level) within the East Front of the Capitol. Nearly 4,700 pieces of stone will line the interior walls of the East Front. The doors for two 25-passenger elevators can be seen at the far end of the scaffold.

- Air handling systems testing and balancing is complete in the Food Service Area, the Great Hall and the two Orientation Theaters and is ongoing in the Congressional Auditorium and the CVC entrance zones.
- Outside, masons continue working on the low-rise walls at the base of the north-side triangular grass panel that slopes down from First Street.
- An audio-visual contractor is expected to complete installation of the media racks for the Orientation Theaters.
- Bronze railings are being installed in the South Orientation Theater. Scaffold has been erected in the North Orientation Theater to allow the millwork contractor to replace some defective ceiling panels.
- Installation of exterior bronze doors will be complete at the south side CVC entrance by the end of the week.

Next Week – 5/21/07 – 5/25/07

CVC and East Front Plaza Work

- Wall stone installation will continue in several areas within the East Front of the Capitol.
- Floor stone installation will continue at the House stairwell atrium and installation of pre-cast terrazzo stair treads may begin in the Senate stairwell atrium.
- Workers are expected to continue installing the glass floor panels in the Exhibition Hall.
- In the Congressional Auditorium, millwork installation will near completion in the upper and lower level seating areas at both ends of the Auditorium. A flooring contractor will continue installing wood floor panels in the seating area.
- Mechanical crews will continue testing and balancing the CVC's air handling system.
- Workers will continue preparing the south pedestrian ramp for placement of concrete aggregate sidewalks.
- Installation of bronze doors will continue throughout the CVC facility.
- Installation of wood and bronze door frames will continue in many areas throughout the CVC.
- Plaza elevator installation will continue. Grading activities will continue on the sloping terrain near the CVC entrances to prepare the ground for sod placement.
- Installation of decorative light fixtures and bronze doors will continue in several corridors.

For additional information about the CVC project, contact the project communications officer, Tom Fontana, at tfontana@ao.gov or visit the project web site at www.aoc.gov. Be sure to click on the "Capitol Visitor Center" link on the homepage.